



MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1900

660 North Street, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
Phone: 601-359-1386
Fax: 601-359-1349
www.mfc.ms.gov



March 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEANING OF ST PATRICK'S DAY	2
TREE KNOWLEDGE	4
MS FIREWISE CORNER	5
MARCH IS WILDFIRE PREVENTION MONTH	6
WILDFIRE SEASON IS HERE!	7
2012 ANNUAL WILDFIRE REPORT	8
MS WILDFIRE NUMBRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012	10
NEWS FROM MFA	16
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	17
FORESTRY DAY AT WARREN HOOD	18
SAFETY FIRST.....	19



The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Mississippi Facts

- ♣ The capital of Mississippi was named after Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. president.
- ♣ The 4-H Club, the youth organization devoted to hands-on learning, was founded in Holmes County in 1907. The four "H's" refer to head, heart, hands and health.
- ♣ Dr. Emmette F. Izard of Hazlehurst developed the first fibers of rayon. They became known as the first real synthetics.
- ♣ At Vicksburg, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station is the

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (in *Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission
660 North Street, Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39202

MEANING OF ST. PATRICK DAY

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, the saint's religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast--on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17,

461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. Interestingly, however, the first parade held to honor St. Patrick's Day took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called

"Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each.

As Irish immigrants spread out over the United States, other cities developed their own traditions. One of these is Chi-

GET YOUR SMOKEY ON

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.

SMOKEYBEAR.COM



(Continued from page 2)

cago's annual dyeing of the Chicago River green. The practice started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river--enough to keep it green for a week! Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds of dye are used, and the river turns green for only several hours.

Although Chicago historians claim their city's idea for a river of green was original, some natives of Savannah, Georgia (whose St. Patrick's Day parade, the oldest in the nation, dates back to 1813) believe the idea originated in their town. They point out that, in 1961, a hotel restaurant manager named Tom Woolley convinced city officials to dye Savannah's river green. The experiment didn't exactly work as planned, and the water only took on a slight greenish hue. Savannah never attempted to dye its river again,

but Woolley maintains (though others refute the claim) that he personally suggested the idea to Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day was traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use interest in St. Patrick's Day to drive tourism and showcase Ireland and Irish culture to the rest of the world. Today, approximately 1 million people annually take part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows.

Did You Know?

- ♣ More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.
- ♣ There are 34.7 million U.S. residents with Irish ancestry. This number is more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
- ♣ The color traditionally associated with St. Patrick was blue, not green.



March's Birthdays



Mark Sprague -1
Charles Clolinger -2
Brendon Blakely -4
Glen Cooper -5
Thomas Nichols -5
Marilyn Davis -7
Andy Redwood -8
James Gann -11
Victor Long -12
Thomas Parker -12
Trenton Beatty -13
William Warner -14
Gregory Hall -15
Michael Mellard -15
Douglas Warren -15
Bryant Brown -16
Little Collums -17
Charles Jefferson -17
John Rhodes -17
Marvin Mathis -19
Braxston Perrigin -20
James Pugh -20
Michael Butler -21
Larry Reed -21
Sandra Snell -21
Jack White -21
Vernon Faust -22
James Wood -22
Vickie Frasier -25
Jimmy Hamilton -25
Robert Stewart -26
Jacob Hamilton -27
Stacy Lewis -28
Matthew Steed -29
Shields Matthews -30
Richie Atkinson -31
Jack Howard -31



The Shamrock

The shamrock, which was also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the seventeenth century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism. As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and the practice of Catholicism, many Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage and their displeasure with English rule.

Irish Music

Music is often associated with St. Patrick's Day—and Irish culture in general. From ancient days of the Celts, music has always been an important part of Irish life. The Celts had an oral culture, where religion, legend and history were passed from one generation to the next by way of stories and songs. After being conquered by the English, and forbidden to speak their own language, the Irish, like other oppressed peoples, turned to music to help them remember important events and hold on to their heritage and history. As it often stirred emotion and helped to galvanize people, music

(Continued on page 5)

March 2013



My leaves are simple, alternate and deciduous. They range in size from 1.5" to 3.0" long and up to 1.5" wide. Their margin is ciliate with a rounded to acuminate apex. They are obovate in shape with a dark green color above to a paler green below. Their surface is glabrous to densely pubescent above and glabrous except for a few hairs along the midrib below.

My twigs are slender and olive green to brown in color. Their surface is glabrous with numerous light lenticels. Their leaf scars are crescent-shaped or half round with bundle scar in groups of three.

I have no terminal bud and my lateral buds are minute in size. They are a yellow-green to brown and have 2 to 3 scale.

My fruit is a drupe. It is oblong in shape and reddish in color.

My flower is dioecious; in yellow clusters on nodes of prior year's growth.

My bark is brown to grayobrown with numer-

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

ous vertical light-colored lenticels.

I have multiple stems and I reach 5' at maturity. I have a slow growth rate of 2.0' and reach maximum growth at 20 years. I have a long life span of greater than 100 years.

I have intermediate tolerance to shade and low tolerance to drought.

I can be found along stream banks, in low woods, margins of wetlands and uplands, especially with exposed limestone. I prefer a fine to medium soil texture with a pH range of 4.5 to 6.0.

I am found in most of the eastern United States. In Mississippi, I am scattered throughout the state.

My fruit and leaves are eaten and/or browsed by over 20 species of birds, mammals, such as, deer, raccoons, opossums and rabbits.

I have not commercial timber values or uses.

I am a good shrubs with deep green leaves, bright yellow fall colors when grown in partial sun. I am fragrant. I am becoming available through commercial nurseries.

I was used for various medicinal purposes by the Cherokee, Creek, Iroquois

and Rappahannock Native American tribes. Extracts used as anti-arthritic, diaphoretic, emetic and herbal steam. My dried fruit was used as a spice and my leaves for tea.

WHO AM I?

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for February 2013 was the **Grancy Grey Beard** (*Chionanthus virginicus* L.) Check out page 171 in the **Mississippi Trees** book.





MS Firewise Corner

What are Firewise Workshops?

Firewise workshop and/or field days are a one-day event bringing together citizens, business, and community leaders involved in planning, financing, building, sustaining, and protecting communities in the wildland/urban interface.

These workshops are a learning experience and participants will learn about why homes burn, various wildland fuel reduction techniques and how to assess the fire danger of their own home.

What is the cost of a Firewise Workshop?

Firewise workshops are **FREE**, however, **pre-registration is required**. Participants will be provided with a meal, refreshments and workshop materials.

Are Professional Credits offered?

There are three different types of Firewise Events and each event offers different professional credits.

How To Have A Firewise Home. This event is approximately half a day in length and covers the basic principles of Firewise in Mississippi.

The following CFE/CEU/CLE are given for this event: Registered Forester, 2 hrs of category II; Certified Loggers, 2 hrs of category II; Realtors, 3 hrs Elective Real Estate Course, Approval Code 10181; Structural Firefighter, Certificate of Attendance, 2 hrs; credit is not available for Teachers and Professional Disciplines.

Firewise Awareness Field Day. This event is slightly longer than the How To Have A Firewise Home event. The additional time is taken to view a sample of three fuel reduction techniques.

The following CFE/CEU/CLE are given for this event: Registered Forester, 3 hrs of category II; Certified Loggers, 2 hrs of category I and 1 hour of category II; Realtors, 3 hrs Elective Real Estate Course, Approval Code 10182; Structural Firefighter, Certificate of Attendance, 3 hrs; credit is not available for Teachers and Professional Disciplines.

Living On The Edge (LOTE). LOTE workshops are all-day events. All stakeholders are invited but strong emphasis is placed on Community Leaders. LOTE is a community education pro-

gram developed in response to the increasing number of families moving to rural areas. Stakeholders living in the wildland/urban interface (WUI) need to understand the issues involved in living safely on the edge. Through interactive exercises, participants identify potential wildfire risks encountered while living in the WUI. These exercises include evaluating, then modifying, an existing community and designing a new community, all of which incorporate Firewise principles.

The following CFE/CEU/CLE are given for this event: Registered Forester, 4 hrs of category II; Certified Loggers, 4 hrs of category II; Realtors, 3 hrs Elective Real Estate Course, Approval Code 10180; Structural Firefighter, Certificate of Attendance, 4 hrs; Teachers, 0.6 CEU's from Mississippi College and Professional Disciplines, 0.7 CEU's from National Fire Protection Association.

So, have you attended a Firewise Event. If not, check out MS Firewise on our website at www.mfc.ms.gov/firewise.php.

was outlawed by the English. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth I even decreed that all artists and pipers were to be arrested and hanged on the spot.

Today, traditional Irish bands like The Chieftains, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem are gaining worldwide popularity. Their music is produced with instruments that have been used for centuries, including the fiddle, the uilleann pipes (a sort of elaborate bagpipe), the tin whistle (a sort of flute that is actually made of nickel-silver, brass or aluminum) and the bodhran (an ancient type of framedrum that was traditionally used in warfare rather than music).

The Snake

It has long been recounted that, during his mission in Ireland, St. Patrick once stood on a hilltop (which is now called Croagh Patrick), and with only a wooden staff by his side, banished all the snakes from Ireland.

In fact, the island nation was never home to any snakes. The "banishing of the snakes" was really a metaphor for the eradication of pagan ideology from Ireland and the triumph of Christianity. Within 200 years of Patrick's arrival, Ireland was completely Christianized.

(Continued on page 8)

Personnel Personals



- George Frye, Forest Ranger, Franklin County, Southwest District



Moving On

- Robert P. Jolley, Forest Ranger, Attala County, East Central District



Gone Fish- in'

- J. Lajuan Teasley, Administrative Assistant, Capital District Office, Capital District
- E. Brendix Glasgow, District Forester, Northeast District Office, Northeast

Stork Report

Congratulation to Forest Ranger Jordi Card on the arrival of Jobi Paul Card on 2/20/2013. Jobi Paul weighted in at 7 lb 8 oz and was 21" long.



March Is Wildfire Prevention Month

The Mississippi Forestry Commission announces, by proclamation signed by Governor Bryant, that March is wildfire prevention month in Mississippi.

"Historically, more wildfires occur in March than any other month in Mississippi," said Charlie Morgan, state forester of the Mississippi Forestry Commission. "This is due to the combination of dry leaves, grass and other vegetation; strong, gusty winds; and the increased level of outdoor activity as many property owners begin clean-up projects on their farms and woodlands."

During the month of March, the forestry commission is conducting a wildfire prevention campaign designed to raise the public's awareness to the threat of wildfire and to prevent wildfires caused by carelessness. Carelessness with debris burning is a leading cause of wildfire in Mississippi. Officials with the commission point out that wildfires burn more than trees. Houses, out build-

ings, farm and outdoor recreational equipment, vehicles and even lives are sometimes lost.

On average, 25 percent of the wildfires and 42 percent of the acres burned occur in the month of March. The av-

sion lists counties with active bans against open outdoor burning on its Web site at www.mfc.ms.gov.

The forestry commission encourages residents to protect their home from the destructive forces of wildfire. Homeowners can become "Firewise" by following these fire safety tips:

- Clear flammable vegetation up to 30 feet away from your house.
- Eliminate "ladder" fuels by mowing tall grass, trimming shrubs, and pruning lower tree branches. Ladder fuels allow a ground fire to climb up.
- Keep the lawn watered and mowed short (3 inches or less) on all sides of all buildings.
- Clean the roof, gutters and windowsills of leaves, needles and other debris.

Burning Leaves On Windy Days Is Like Burning Money



Be wise with fire.

While Cleaning Up Your Property... You Could Quickly Destroy It.
A simple household chore can start a nightmare wildfire in a matter of minutes. The wind can carry sparks from your fire to your neighbor's property. And the fire can quickly spread out of control, destroying thousands of acres of valuable land and real estate. March is Mississippi's "windy" month. If you're burning leaves and debris this spring, be cautious:

- Don't burn trash or debris on windy days.
- Remove leaves and needles from gutters.
- Keep piles of limbs and leaves at least 30 feet away from your home.



You are responsible for damages caused by your carelessness.
Check for burn ban information: www.mfc.ms.gov



erage size of a March wildfire is 26 acres. (For reference, one acre is about the size of a football field.) The average annual wildfire activity in Mississippi is 3,256 wildfires that burn 55,820 acres.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission urges the public, especially rural property owners, to not burn outdoor debris on windy days. Check with local officials for burn ban information. The commis-

For Fiscal Year 2012 Wildfire numbers, see page 10.

Wildfire Season Is Here!!!

Jackson, MS – Timber production, farming and agriculture have a huge impact on the state's economy. Fire management is critical to improving and maintaining these resources. Prescribed burning, also known as controlled burning plays a vital part in the health of our lands. It helps to improve the growth of timber by removing non-native invasive species of grass, non-desirable understory plants, and pests that compete for water and nutrients in the soil. It also allows native grasses and forages to grow for wild animals to eat and removes fuels that could possibly create a catastrophic wildfire causing damage to the ecosystem.

Burning under certain weather conditions can greatly aid those wishing to do so. Temperature, relative humidity, and winds greatly affect a fire. Relative humidity below 25 percent and winds over ten miles per hour are not good conditions for controlled burning. Embers can often be carried long distances, causing spot fires as far as one-half mile away. It is recommended that private forest landowners consult with a certified prescribed burn manager prior to conduct-

ing a burn. They can assist in the development of a prescribed burn plan which allows the landowner to get the most benefit out of the burn while maintaining safe working conditions.

Safety minded fire managers obtain a burn permit from the Mississippi Forestry Commission. When you call to obtain a permit, you are given the current fire weather and informed if conditions are adverse to burning. Permits are issued on a daily basis and are obtained by dialing 1-800-240-5161 or 601-928-5261.

If you are obtaining a permit for yourself, please have your name, street address, phone number and the legal description of your land that you will be burning. This can be found on your deed, property taxes, or at your local courthouse. The Mississippi Forestry Commission asks for this information because that is how our firefighters find your property and the fire should anything go wrong.

If you are a forester or a prescribed burn manager, please have all of the prior information along with the property owner's name, phone number and their

home address.

The phone numbers listed above are for Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Pearl River, Perry and Stone Counties. Other numbers may be found on the Mississippi Forestry Commission's website at www.mfc.ms.gov or on our Facebook Page.

The number one causes of wildfires are woods arson and debris burning. The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a reward of up to twenty-five hundred dollars upon arrest and conviction of anyone committing woods arson, which is a felony offense. Call 1-800-240-5161 if you have information regarding woods arson. If you spot a wildfire, dial 911 immediately.

Wildland fire season is here. On average, the Mississippi Forestry Commission responds to 3,000 wildfires that damage or destroy nearly 50,000 acres every year.

How **YOU** manage fire is very critical!



ST. Patrick's Day Fun Facts

- ♣ All you have to do to be Irish is wear something green. If not, people will pinch you. No one is certain how the tradition of pinching people who don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day came to be; however, it is popular among children and adults alike.
- ♣ Last year, over 1 million people took part in St. Patrick's Day Festival in Dublin
- ♣ Every year since 1962, the city of Chicago uses 40 pounds of dye to turn their river green on St. Patrick's Day, enough to last a few hours
- ♣ In 2009, roughly 26.1 billion pounds of beef and 2.3 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United State
- ♣ On the average day, 5.5 million pints of Guinness are consumed around the world. That number more then doubles on St. Patrick's Day, with more than 13 million pints going down the hatch.
- ♣ And the big one... St. Patrick was not Irish, he was born to a Roman Britain family.

Corned Beef

Each year, thousands of Irish Americans gather with their loved ones on St. Patrick's Day to share a "traditional" meal of corned beef and cabbage.

Though cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began to be associated with St. Patrick's Day at the turn of the century.

Irish immigrants living on New York City's Lower East Side substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon to save money. They learned about the cheaper alternative from their Jewish neighbors.

The Leprechaun

The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow."

Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their trickery, which they often used to

(Continued on page 9)

2012 Annual Wildfire Report

Overview

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently published the 2012 annual wildfire report. According to the report this past year was the worst on record over the last 13 years, if one considers the average wildfire size. The average wildfire was more than 85 acres per incident and reinforces the idea that the size of the wildfires is increasing over time and therefore increasing the

tional Fire Incident Reporting system that is managed by the US Fire Administration.

The Report:

2012 marked the warmest year on record for the contiguous U.S. in a period of record that dates back to 1895. The record-breaking warmth was paired with exceptional dryness across much of the nation. Drier-than-average conditions were experienced from the Rockies to the East

64.6 percent for the contiguous U.S. (about 54 percent including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The wildfire activity of 2012 supplanted 2011's rank as third most acres burned, behind the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Although the number of fires was below-average, the size of the fires was notably increased. The annual fire size of 137.1 acres was the most since 2000 for any January through

January–December	Totals	Rank (out of 13 years)	Record		10-Year Average (2001-2010)
			Value	Year	
Acres Burned	9,221,639	3 rd Most	9,873,745	2006	6,534,250.2
		11 th Least			
Number of Fires	67,265	10 th Most	96,385	2006	76,521.1
		4 th Least			
Acres Burned/Fire	137.1	Most on Record	137	2012	85.7
		13 th Least			

overall fire burden on our nation.

It is important to note that this report was based only on data collected by the National Interagency Fire Center and does not account for all wildfires. Many of the wildfires handled at the local or county level are recorded in another data base known as the Na-

Coast. Nebraska and Wyoming each had their driest year on record.

Meanwhile, wetter-than-average conditions existed in the Pacific Northwest, the central Gulf Coast, and New England. By September's end, the percentage of the country experiencing moderate-to-exceptional drought peaked at about

December period, which was about 1.5 times the 10-year average (based on 2001-2010). Large wildfires occurred in New Mexico (largest in state history), Colorado (second largest in state history), and Oregon (largest since the 1860s). Overall, the number of fires remained below-average for 19 of the

past 20 months (every month since May 2011, with the exception of January 2012). The month of January saw elevated wildfire activity as the result of combined warmth and dryness in the Great Plains, and a lack of snow pack having left the grasslands of the High Plains exposed to strong winds.

Through December 28th, the nationwide number of fires year-to-date reached 67,265 fires which was the fourth least annual number of wildfires since 2000. Texas experienced the most number of wildfires of any state during 2012 with more than 10,600 fires (about 16 percent

of the national total). Nationally, the amount of acres burned was 9,221,639 during 2012, which represents about 1.5 times the 10-year average (based on 2001-2010) of 6,534,250 acres burned. The month of August saw notable wildfire activity, when the fire size reached 523.4 acres per fire (the highest for any August in the

2000-2012 record) and the acres burned in August were nearly equal to the acres burned from January through July 2012. Idaho wildfires burned the most acres of any state during the year, with over 1.5 million acres (about 17 percent of the national total). Oregon and Montana followed closely with each having in excess of 1.2 million acres burned within their respective states. During 2012 the damages from wildfires across the country will top one billion U.S. dollars.

Records maintained by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and

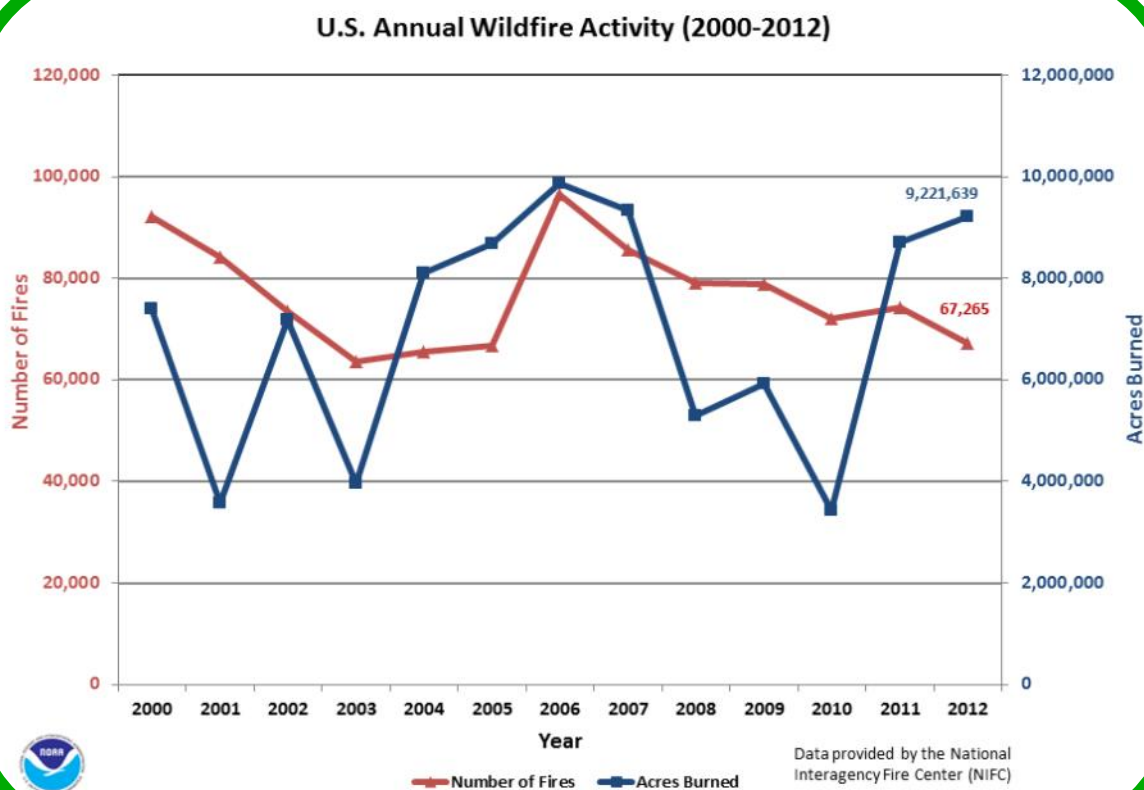
NASA both indicate that 2012 was an extraordinary year for wildfires in the United States.

For the full report, [click here](#).

Note from Editor: Please note that all numbers in this report represent the national numbers for the 2012 wildfire season.

protect their much-fabled treasure.

Leprechauns had nothing to do with St. Patrick or the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, a Catholic holy day. In 1959, Walt Disney released a film called *Darby O'Gill & the Little People*, which introduced America to a very different sort of leprechaun than the cantankerous little man of Irish folklore. This cheerful, friendly leprechaun is a purely American invention, but has quickly evolved into an easily recognizable symbol of both St. Patrick's Day and Ireland in general.



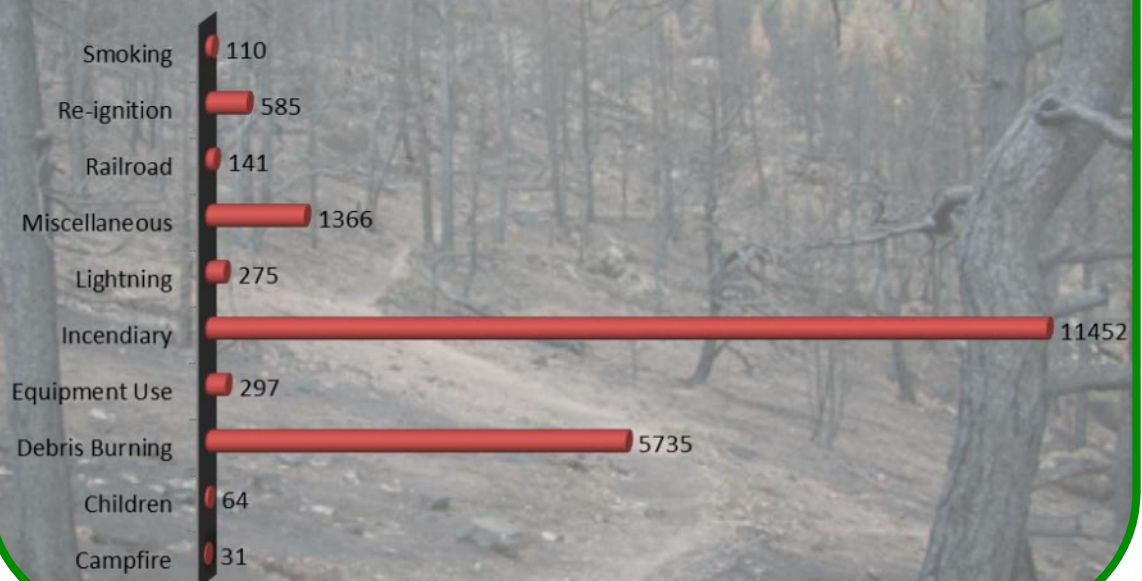
Mississippi Wildfire Numbers for Fiscal Year 2012

WILDFIRES BY CAUSES FISCAL YEAR 2012



"If they are determined to live in those areas, we ask that they build in consideration of what the standards should be. Look at how many homes in wildfire-prone areas have wooden siding? Let's just use some common sense."
-Wendy Rose

ACRS BURNED BY CAUSES FISCAL YEAR 2012



**FIRE
PREVENTION**

"Though reduced, wildfire risks are always present and people are reminded to be careful with fire at all times."
-Rich Coleman

Fire Cause Categories

Wildfires are classified according to the ignition source or to the general human related activity, which started the fire. The following categories are used to describe various causes:

- ♣ **Lightning** - Any wildfire started as a result of lightning activity. Lightning occurrence maps are a significant tool to be utilized in suspected lightning caused fires.
- ♣ **Campfire** - Any fire kindled for warmth, cooking, light, religious or ceremonial purpose. Camp fires may occur at any location. Responsible parties may be hunters, campers, fisherman or hikers.
- ♣ **Smoking** - Wildfires caused by smoking activities or accoutrements, including matches, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.
- ♣ **Debris Burning** - Wildfires caused by fires started for purposes of burning slash, garbage, stubble, right-of-way, or other controlled burning.
- ♣ **Incendiary (Arson)** - Wildfires deliberately and/or maliciously set with the intent to damage or defraud. Refer to your jurisdiction's legal definition of arson.
- ♣ **Equipment Use** - Wildfires resulting from the operation of mechanical equipment excluding railroads. Types of mechanical equipment range from heavy construction to small portable engines.

Wildfire By Causes By District Fiscal Year 2012								
Cause	NE	EC	SC	SE	SW	C	NW	Total
Debris Burning	148	123	117	126	152	55	52	773
Incendiary	181	66	50	214	135	56	56	758
Miscellaneous	23	21	19	36	28	13	14	154
Re-ignition	10	4	7	19	14	4	4	62
Equipment Use	6	4	6	6	11	4	14	51
Lightning	2	4	1	6	6	1	1	21
Smoking	4	2	2	2	4	1	7	22
Railroad	1	2	3	0	2	0	1	9
Campfire	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Children	3	5	0	4	0	0	0	12
Total	378	231	206	415	352	134	149	1,865

Acres Burned By Causes By District Fiscal Year 2012								
Cause	NE	EC	SC	SE	SW	C	NW	Total
Incendiary	3,454	1,934	374	2,430	1,392	735	1,133	11,452
Debris Burning	1,140	769	631	985	968	394	848	5,735
Miscellaneous	153	48	118	703	101	59	184	1,366
Equipment Use	34	9	30	56	66	29	73	297
Re-ignition	139	8	23	234	72	19	90	585
Lightning	81	14	1	133	37	5	4	275
Smoking	18	15	4	16	9	1	47	110
Railroad	20	75	19	0	2	0	25	141
Children	16	21	0	27	0	0	0	64
Campfire	0	0	15	16	0	0	0	31
Total	5,055	2,893	1,215	4,600	2,647	1,242	2,404	20,056

- ♣ **Rail Road** - Wildfires caused by any rail road operations, personnel, or rolling stock. Can include track and right-of-way maintenance.
- ♣ **Children** - Wildfires started by persons 12 years of age or younger. May be motivated by normal curiosity and use fire in experimental or play fashion. Matches or lighters are the most frequent ignition

source. Often involves multiple children.

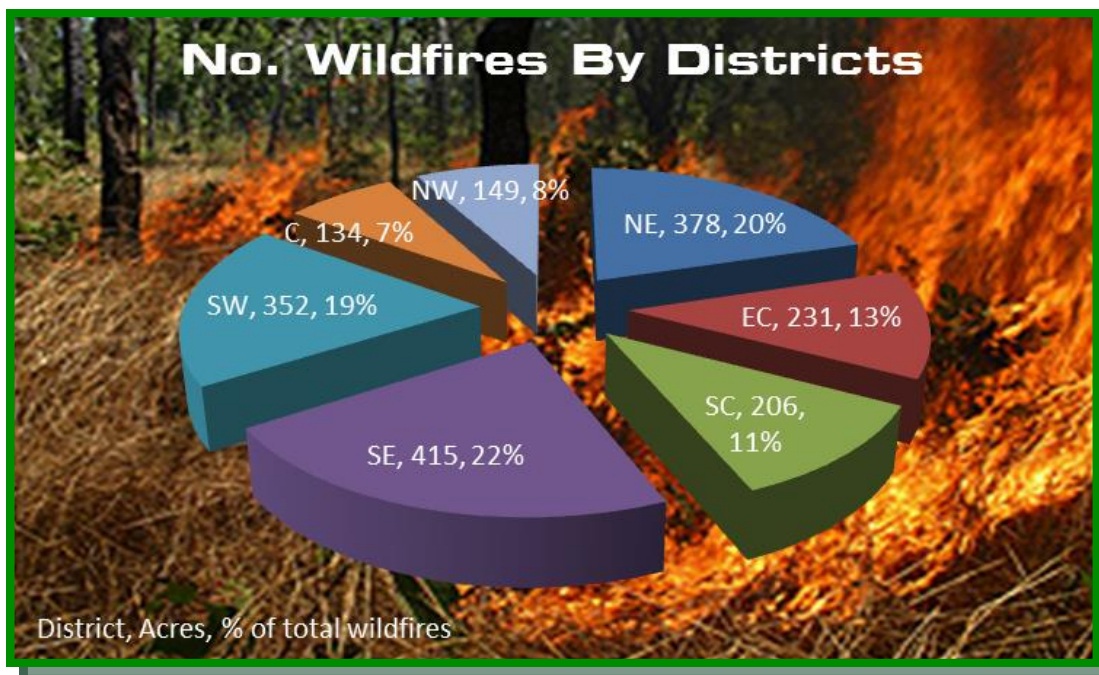
Miscellaneous - Wildfires that cannot be properly classified under other standard causes. Some of these are listed below:

- Power Lines
- Fireworks
- Cutting, welding, and grinding
- Firearms use
- Blasting
- Structures

- Glass refraction/magnification
- Spontaneous combustion
- Flare stack/pit fires

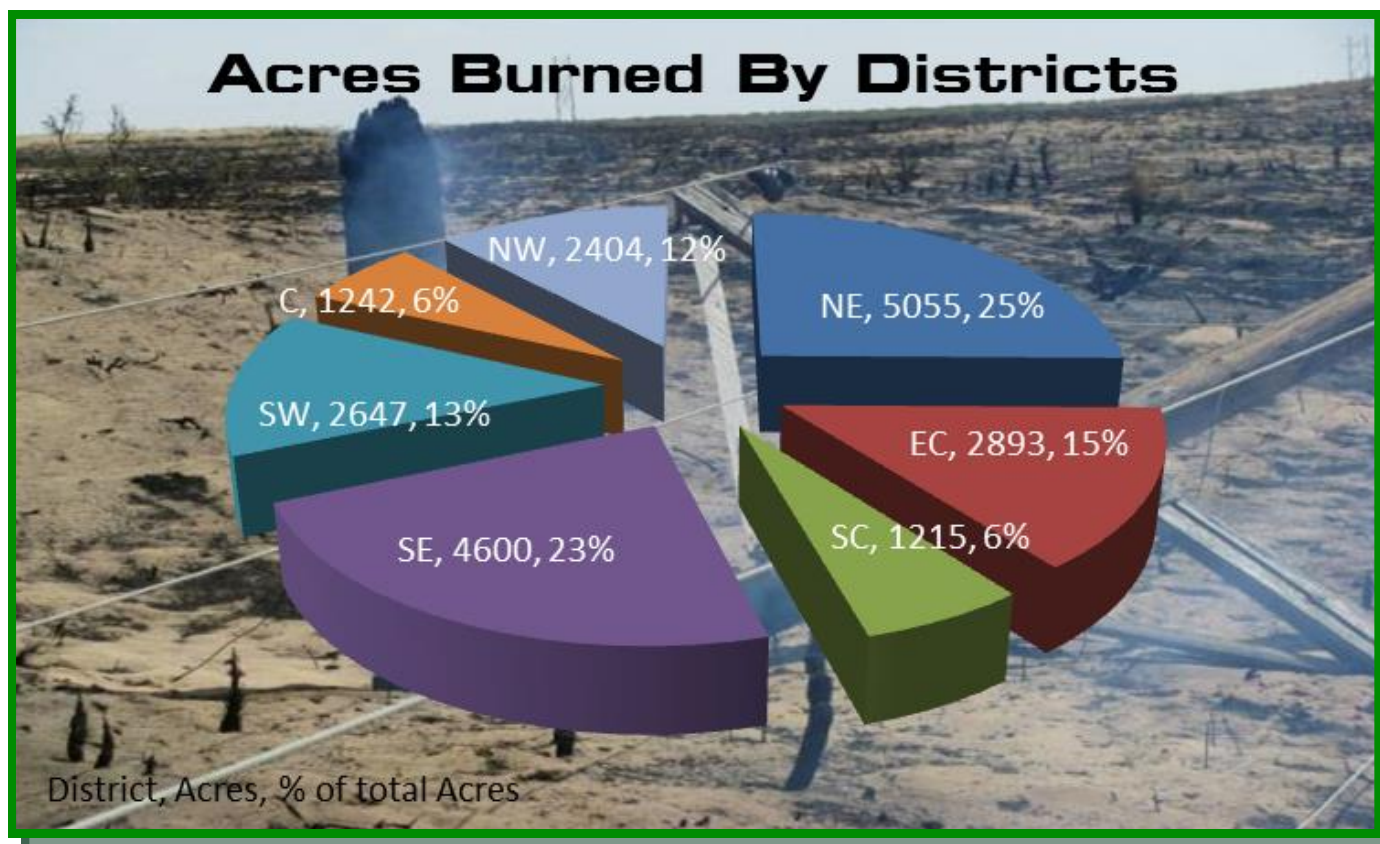


More Mississippi Wildfire Numbers



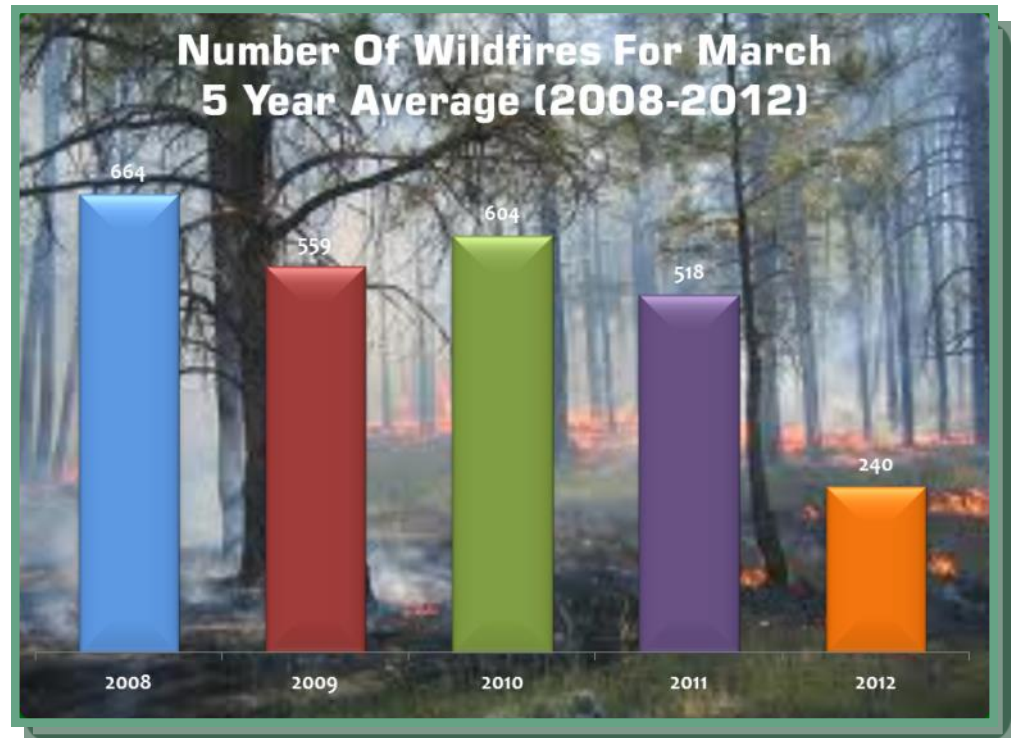
"One of the best things people can do to prevent a wildfire near their home is clearing an area of at least 30 feet so firefighters can access and protect the homes. A lot of people don't picture it as a threat, but it could turn into one."

-Mike Drake

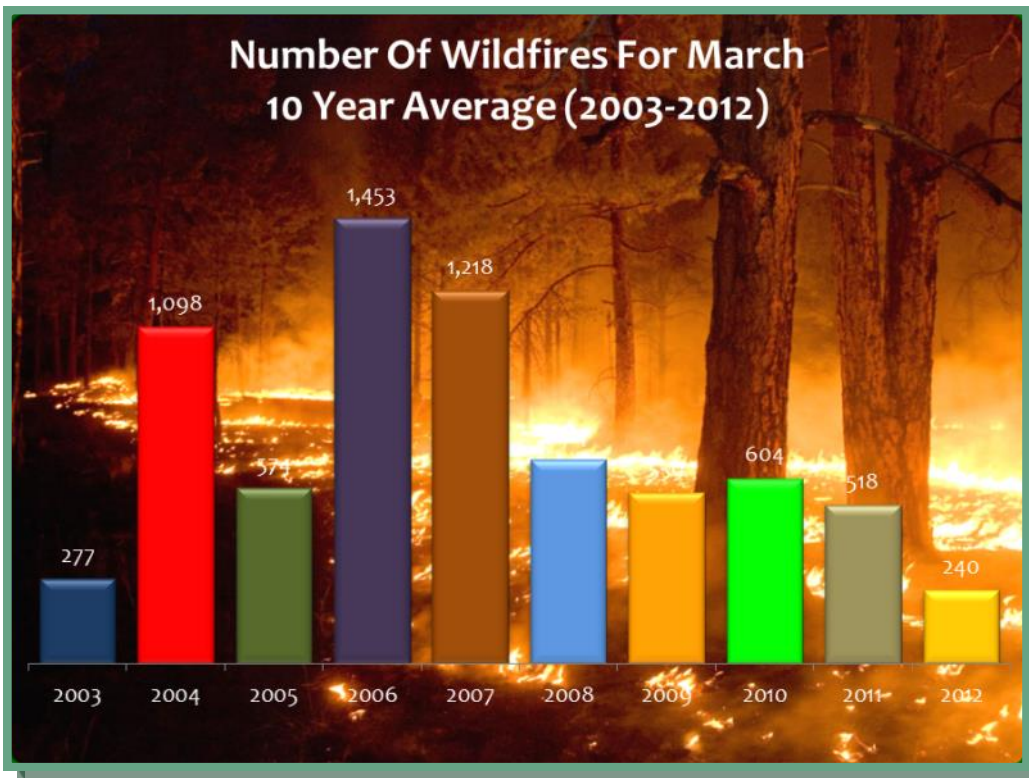


May the **Irish** hills
 caress you.
 May her
 lakes and rivers
 bless you.
 May the **luck** of the
 Irish enfold you.
 May the *blessings* of
SAINT PATRICK
 behold you.

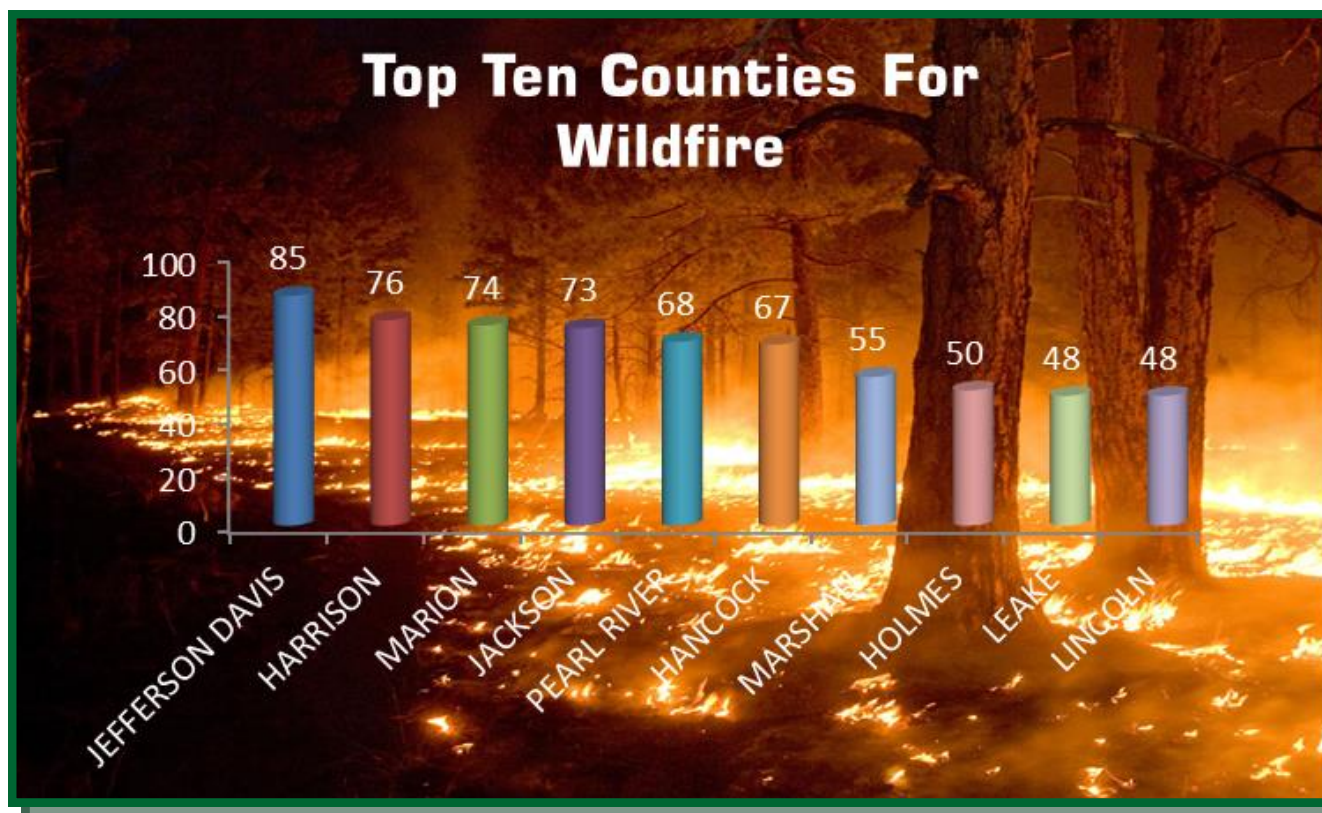
jucoolimages.com

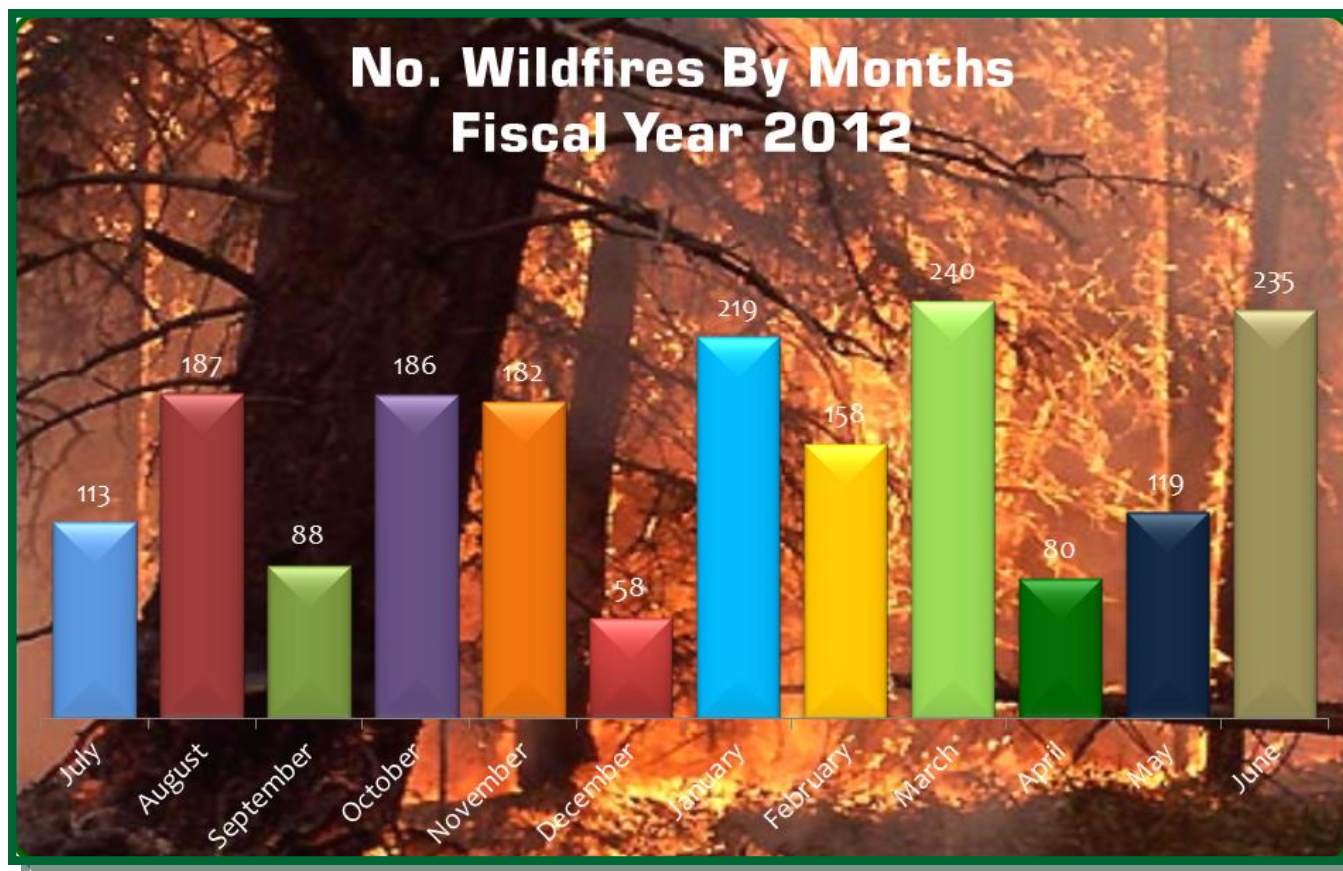
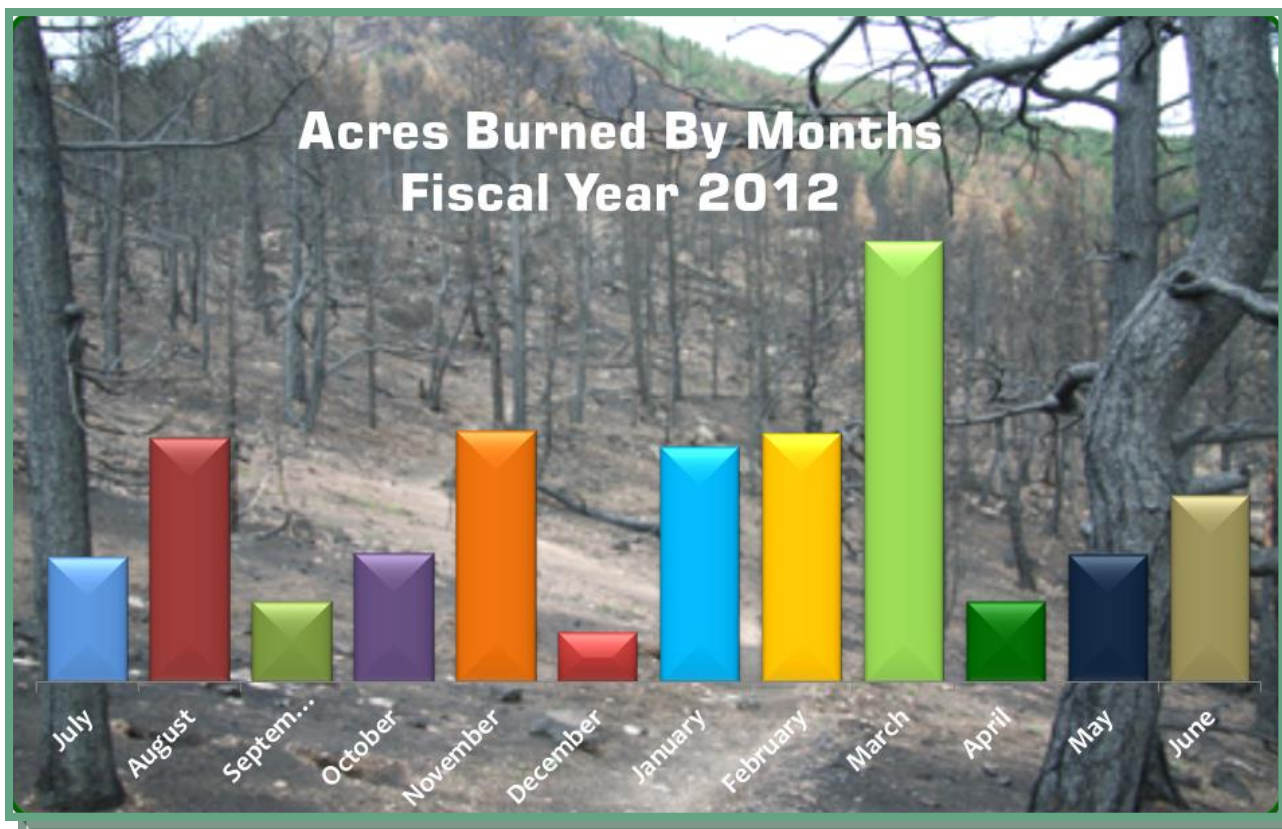


FY 2012



And Still More Mississippi Wildfire Numbers





This data (Mississippi Wildfire Numbers for Fiscal Year 12) reflects wildfires suppressed by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. This data does not include any wildfires responded to by volunteer fire departments.
Source: MFC Daily Fire Report

National Forest of Mississippi

Memorial Tree Planting for Service Forester Tim Hinton

**National Resources Conservation
Service**

For more information about EQIP or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local service center: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>

National Forests in Mississippi



United States
Department of Agriculture



Forest Service
Southern Region

R8-MB 142 A
December 2012

Memorial Tree Planting for Service Forester Tim Hinton.



(click image for more information)



GARDEN & PATIO SHOW 2013

Spring is just around the corner and what a better time to get ready for it - under one location - at one of the most anticipated events of the Spring! Educational gardening seminars, experts in gardening products, services, outdoor living needs, yard art...you name it, we have it, we know about it, and by the end of the show...so will YOU! Calling all "gardening enthusiasts - come "grow" with us! Don't miss this all inspiring, beautiful show! Hosted by the MS Nursery & Landscape Association!

Gulf Coast, Mississippi

- ♣ **Date(s):** 03/01/2013 - 03/03/2013
- ♣ **Times:** Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm
- ♣ **Location:** MS Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd, Biloxi
- ♣ **Admission:** \$6.00 Adults; Children 12 & Under Free; Free Parking

Jackson, Mississippi

- ♣ **Date(s):** 03/15/2013 - 03/17/2013
- ♣ **Times:** Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm
- ♣ **Location:** Trade Mart Building, MS State Fairgrounds, 1207 Mississippi Street, Jackson
- ♣ **Admission:** \$6.00 Adults; Children 12 & Under Free; Free Parking



Change brings new directions, which is our theme for the Alcorn State University Extension Program (ASUEP) **2013 Small Farmers Conference** which will be held **March 25 through 27, 2013** in Greenville, Mississippi. This year's theme is **"Enhancing Opportunity for Success."** For more information, check out their website at <http://www.smallfarmersconference.org/>.



Forestry Day At Warren Hood Scout Reservation

Submitted by Nate Irby, MFA and Stephen Dicke, MSU

Forestry Day was held February 9, 2013 at Warren Hood Boy Scout Reservation near Hazlehurst. A total of 237 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scout Leaders participated in the day-long event. The Forestry Merit Badge was earned by 109 Boy Scouts thanks to the efforts of MFC Foresters Richard McInnis (Director of Forest Management), Ted Ratcliff (Central District Forester) and James Hancock (Grants Coordinator). They were merit badge instructors along with 8 other foresters from the MS Forestry Association, Mississippi State University, and Weyerhaeuser Company. The Mississippi Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee was a key sponsor of the event. Forestry Day has become an important annual event and the Andrew Jackson Council BSA is already planning a great program next year.



St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic. ~Adrienne Cook

Safety First . . .

March Is Eye Safety Month

By Lyn Wagner from the Wellness Junction.

With so many people using computers at work and at home, complaints of eye strain, difficulty focusing and discomfort have become commonplace in doctors' offices.

One of the main reasons for this is — although offices have marched into the age of technology, not much else has. People are still using the same lighting, furniture and desk configurations they had when using typewriters.



To mark March as Workplace Eye Safety Month, the American Academy of Ophthalmology has put together some tips to help us alleviate some of the eye problems modern technology has given birth to. They are:

- ♣ **First and most important — get an eye exam** by your ophthalmologist, who can rule out the possibility of eye disease as the cause of your symptoms. You could simply need glasses when working at a computer, or your prescription might need updating;
- ♣ **Screen distance** — you should sit approximately 20 inches from the computer monitor, a little further than you would for reading distance, with the top of the screen at or below eye level.
- ♣ **Equipment** — choose a monitor that tilts or swivels, and has both

contrast and brightness controls;

- ♣ **Furniture** — an adjustable chair is best;
- ♣ **Reference materials** — keep reference materials on a document holder so you don't have to keep looking back and forth, frequently refocusing your eyes and turning your neck and head;
- ♣ **Lighting** — modify your lighting to eliminate reflections or glare. A hood or micromesh filter for your screen might help limit reflections and glare; and
- ♣ **Rest breaks** — take periodic rest breaks, and try to blink often to keep your eyes from drying out.

Another thing to remember is that the forced-air heating systems in big office buildings can increase problems with dry eyes during the winter months. The usual symptoms of dry eye are stinging or burning eyes, scratchiness, a feeling that there's something in the eye, excessive tearing or difficulty wearing contact lenses. Over-the-counter eye drops, called artificial tears, usually help, but if dry eye persists, see your eye doctor for an evaluation.

From Brickstreet Insights

More than 2,000 eye injuries occur on the job site every day and about one in 10 of them require missed work days to recover. Of the total amount of work-related eye injuries, 10 to 20 percent will cause temporary or permanent vision loss in the effected employees. And, while many people think that eye injuries primarily occur in manufacturing, construction or trade jobs, nearly 40 percent of work-related eye injuries occur in offices,

healthcare facilities, laboratories and similar environments.

Flying objects, tools, particles, chemicals and harmful radiation, are the causes of most eye injuries. And in many cases, implementing safe work practices and utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment could prevent them entirely.

March is Workplace Eye Safety Awareness Month and that is why we are taking this opportunity to remind you of a few tips to help protect your eyes while on the job.

- ♣ Always wear the appropriate safety eyewear for your job site or role, even if you are just passing through a hazardous area.
- ♣ If working in an area with particles or dust, be sure to wear safety glasses with side shields to protect against flying objects.
- ♣ When working with chemicals, always wear safety goggles or face shields to protect against splashing.
- ♣ When working around hazardous radiation like welding, lasers or fiber optics, be sure to use special-purpose safety goggles and helmets designed specifically for the task.

So remember - something as simple as putting on a pair of safety glasses can prevent serious eye injuries. These injuries are painful, cause many lost workdays and sometimes lead to permanent vision loss. So during the month of March, and year round, remember to wear your safety glasses!

First Time, Every Time